



MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT
MICHIGAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE

Michigan Hall of Justice • PO Box 30205 • Lansing, MI 48909
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PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

April 12, 2007



Managing Your Courtroom: Practical Solutions to Common Courtroom Issues

June 12, 2007

Michigan Hall of Justice Conference Center
Lansing, Michigan

Introduction

The Michigan Judicial Institute (MJi) is pleased to announce a one-day interactive program for new and experienced trial court judges who handle civil and criminal cases. The morning session will discuss how to best maintain control of the courtroom when faced with the “challenging” attorney, party, or witness, including pro se and militia litigants. The afternoon session will offer interactive round-table discussions on common issues in trial proceedings.

Description

This program offers new and experienced trial judges an opportunity to learn from the experience of judges and court experts from around the state who have dealt with difficult issues commonly faced by the trial court judges.

The first portion of the morning session will address best practices for dealing with troublesome attorneys.

Judges who have “been there,” and an attorney who prosecutes cases of attorney misconduct, will offer pointers and discuss dealing with attorneys who:

- Are unduly vociferous
- Engage in “grandstanding”
- Fail to take direction
- Don’t “play well” with others
- Appear in court in an impaired state
- Violate ethical standards
- Are incompetent to handle the matter before the judge

The second part of the morning session will discuss issues pertaining to pro se and militia litigants and will cover such topics as:

- Defining what pro se litigants may and may not do
- Dealing with the pro se litigant who “plays” being a lawyer
- Managing the pro se litigant who does not know what to do
- Dealing with the “litigious” pro se litigant
- Managing the litigant who stretches the boundaries
- Dealing with militia litigants – common types of cases, legal arguments, tactics used, and effective ways to manage these cases
- Addressing security issues with litigants who are potentially unstable

The afternoon session will be a series of round-table discussions on issues frequently arising in trial proceedings. These discussions will be interactive – all participants will have the opportunity to identify troublesome areas, and offer their experiences and expertise on the issues addressed. Participants will participate in two of the following discussion topics:

- Session I:** Addressing jail overcrowding. What works, what doesn’t.
- Session II:** Troublesome criminal trial issues – disruptive defendants (options available, proper removal, or remote access procedures); witnesses who plead the 5th Amendment; recalcitrant witnesses; midtrial motions for mistrial; convening multiple jury panels; excluding the public from trials, etc.
- Session III:** Effective pretrial management practices. New and inventive tools to encourage settlement and keep the docket moving.
- Session IV:** Discovery management in cases involving electronic records and documents. How the discovery rules work and don’t work for e-mails, computer data, etc.

At the conclusion of the round-table discussions, the entire group will reassemble to share the identified issues and strategies with all participants.

Faculty

The program faculty will include:

Hon. Archie Brown, Trial Court Chief Judge, Washtenaw County Trial Court
Hon. Gary J. Bruce, Berrien County Trial Court
Hon. Robert Colombo, 3rd Circuit Court
Hon. William J. Giovan, Chief Judge Pro Tem, 3rd Circuit Court
Hon. Amy Krause, 54A District Court
Hon. Vera Massey Jones, 3rd Circuit Court
Mr. John Ort, Trial Court Security Specialist, SCAO
Mr. Patrick L. Rose, Esq.
Hon. Michael F. Skinner, Eaton County Probate Court
Mr. Stephen P. Vella, Esq., Attorney Grievance Commission

Eligible Participants

This program is designed for new and experienced trial court judges who preside over both civil and criminal proceedings.

General Program Schedule

Tuesday, June 12

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Program Registration
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	Managing Your Courtroom
12:00 – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch
12:45 – 4:30 p.m.	Round-table Discussion: Common Trial Issues

Lodging and Meals

The Michigan Judicial Institute will provide double-occupancy lodging on Monday evening, June 11 at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel for all participants whose courts are located more than 100 miles from the program site. If you request a single-occupancy room, you will be responsible for one-half of the double-occupancy room rate. Please make the appropriate lodging request on the attached registration form.

All program participants will receive complimentary breaks (coffee, tea, and ice water) throughout the program. In addition, all participants will be provided with a complimentary group luncheon. All other incidentals, including dinner, mileage, entertainment, phone calls, etc., are the responsibility of each individual or his/her funding unit.

Facility space constraints will not allow MJJ to make any arrangements to accommodate spouses, family, or friends of a program participant for lodging, meals, or the program itself.

MJJ programs are offered at facilities that accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special accommodations during the program, please indicate your needs on the attached registration form.

Registration

Judges who are interested in attending this program must complete the attached program registration form. Requests for the preferred two round-table sessions should also be noted on the registration form. Registration forms must be received by Tricia Shaver no later than 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 1, 2007**. Registration is limited to 75 participants and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applicants selected to attend this program will be notified by mail following the close of the registration deadline. Specific on-site registration information will be included with the acceptance notification mailing.

Questions

If you have questions concerning the application process, lodging, or other administrative matters, please contact Tricia Shaver at shavert@courts.mi.gov or (517) 373-7452. If you have questions regarding the content of the program, please contact Tom Byerley at byerleyt@courts.mi.gov or (517) 373-7520.

Please complete the attached registration form and fax it to MJJ by **Friday, June 1, 2007**.

Tricia Shaver
Program Assistant
Michigan Judicial Institute
Fax: (517) 373-7615

MICHIGAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE
REGISTRATION FORM

**Managing Your Courtroom:
Practical Solutions to Common Courtroom Issues**

June 12, 2007
Michigan Hall of Justice Conference Center
Lansing, Michigan

NAME: _____

TITLE: _____

COURT: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ **ZIP CODE:** _____

TELEPHONE:(____) _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

During the afternoon session, you will be able to attend TWO of the following FOUR round-table discussions. Please rank your preferences (“1”= first request, “2”=second request, etc.)

- ☐ **Addressing Jail Overcrowding**
- ☐ **Troublesome Criminal Trial Issues**
- ☐ **Effective Pretrial Management Practices**
- ☐ **Discovery Management of Electronic Records**

The Michigan Hall of Justice Conference Center accommodates persons with disabilities. Please list any special accommodations or dietary restrictions you will require during your attendance:

MICHIGAN JUDICIAL INSTITUTE
REGISTRATION FORM

**Managing Your Courtroom:
Practical Solutions to Common Courtroom Issues**

Lodging Policy

MJI will provide double-occupancy lodging at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel for all participants whose courts are located more than 100 miles from the program site, the night prior to the program, Monday, June 11. All rooms are double-occupancy and will be assigned roommates by MJI. If you wish for a single-occupancy room, you will be required to pay approximately \$40.00, plus tax, per night at the time of checkout. Please indicate your accommodations preference below. Room reservations must be made with MJI by **Friday, June 1, 2007**.

Lodging Accommodations

- ☐ I **will not** require lodging.
- ☐ I **will** require lodging for the evening of Monday, June 11, 2007.
- ☐ I prefer a single-occupancy room. (I will pay approximately \$40.00, plus tax.)
- ☐ I prefer a double-occupancy room. (MJI pays and will assign a roommate.)

☐ I am a **smoker**

☐ I am a **nonsmoker**

Preferred roommate: _____ Court: _____

Accommodations Guarantee

If MJI does not receive a credit card number, your room will **NOT** be guaranteed. Rooms not guaranteed will be released by the hotel at 5:00 p.m., Monday, June 11. To guarantee, please provide the following credit card information.

☐ American Express ☐ MasterCard ☐ Diners Club ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Other: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Lodging Cancellation

MJI arranges guaranteed room reservations based on your request. If you do not call the hotel and cancel your reservations by 5:00 p.m. on the date of the reservation, the cost of the room will be charged by the hotel to the credit card account you have provided.

Signature of Applicant: _____

Date

Signature of Chief Judge: _____

Date

Fax completed and **SIGNED** two-page Registration Form by **Friday, June 1, 2007**, to:
Tricia Shaver, Fax: (517) 373-7615